

TEACHING
NOTES

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS WISHES



SYNOPSIS

On Stir-Up Sunday, Grandma invites Charlie, Daisy and Rose into her warm, cosy kitchen. With every turn of the spoon, spices swirl, memories grow and a secret wish slips quietly into the bowl. As the pudding comes to life with a little Christmas wonder, will the family's wishes come true? A heartwarming celebration of family, tradition and the joys found in the little moments.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca Hobbs is a children's author and Early Years teacher based in the UK, with over fifteen years' experience working with young children. Her love of storytelling, imagination and play has always been at the heart of her work in education. Rebecca writes picture books inspired by family traditions, everyday magic and the small moments that matter most to children. Her stories celebrate warmth, curiosity and the joy of shared experiences. Alongside writing, Rebecca designs thoughtful, imaginative learning experiences through play, creativity and hands-on exploration. She lives in Bedfordshire and can often be found surrounded by picture books, notebooks and cups of tea.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Katie Kear is a British illustrator and has been creating artwork for as long as she can remember. She loves creating new worlds and characters, and hopes to spread joy and happiness with her illustrations! As a child, her favourite memories always involved reading. Whether it was reading her first picture books with her mother before bed and imagining new stories for the characters, or as an older child reading chapter books into the night, she always remembers having a love for books! This is what made her pursue her career in illustration. Katie is a graduate of the University of Gloucestershire, with a first class BA Hons Illustration degree. Katie has worked with amazing clients, including Penguin Random House, Hachette, Harper Collins, Pan Macmillan and many more! In her spare time, she loves drawing, adventures in nature, chocolate, collecting stacks of stationery and finding new inspirational artists!

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Magical Christmas Wishes is inspired by the family tradition of Stir-Up Sunday, when families traditionally gather to make and stir their Christmas pudding on the last Sunday before Advent. This charming story celebrates family, hope and the quiet magic found in ordinary moments. The book includes a recipe for Christmas pudding at the back.



Written by
Rebecca Hobbs

Illustrated by
Katie Kear

Published by
New Frontier Publishing



DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Introduce *Magical Christmas Wishes* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Do you celebrate Christmas? If so, do you have any Christmas traditions that you follow? Discuss these with the class.
3. Why are traditions important? What do they mean to you? (Time spent with family, fun activities, comforting element ...)
4. Have you eaten Christmas pudding before? What does it taste like?
5. If you had to make a wish, what would it be? (You don't have to say it out loud!)
6. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?

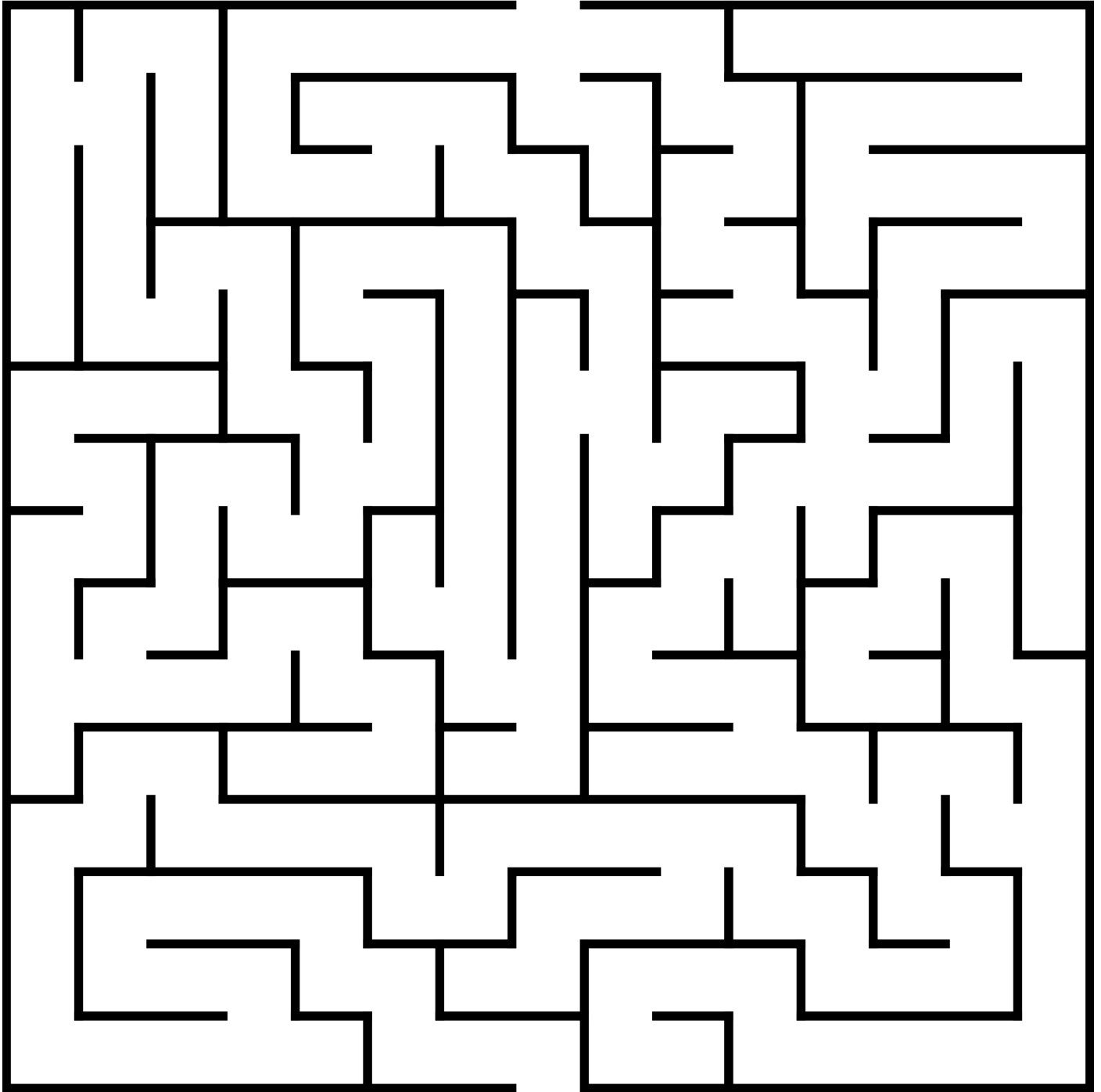
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- **Secret Wish Stars/Wish Tree**
Children write or draw a secret wish on a paper star to add to a class display or tree.
- **Class Recipe Book**
Share foods special to family celebrations/traditions and create a simple class recipe collection.
- **Stir the Wish Circle Time Activity**
Pass around a bowl and spoon so each child can take a turn 'stirring' while thinking of a wish or hope.
- **Christmas/Festival Senses Exploration**
Explore festive smells, textures and ingredients (cinnamon, orange, raisins, spices, etc.) and describe them.
- **Christmas Pudding Memories**
Children create their own decorated pudding filled with pictures of favourite festive memories or family traditions.

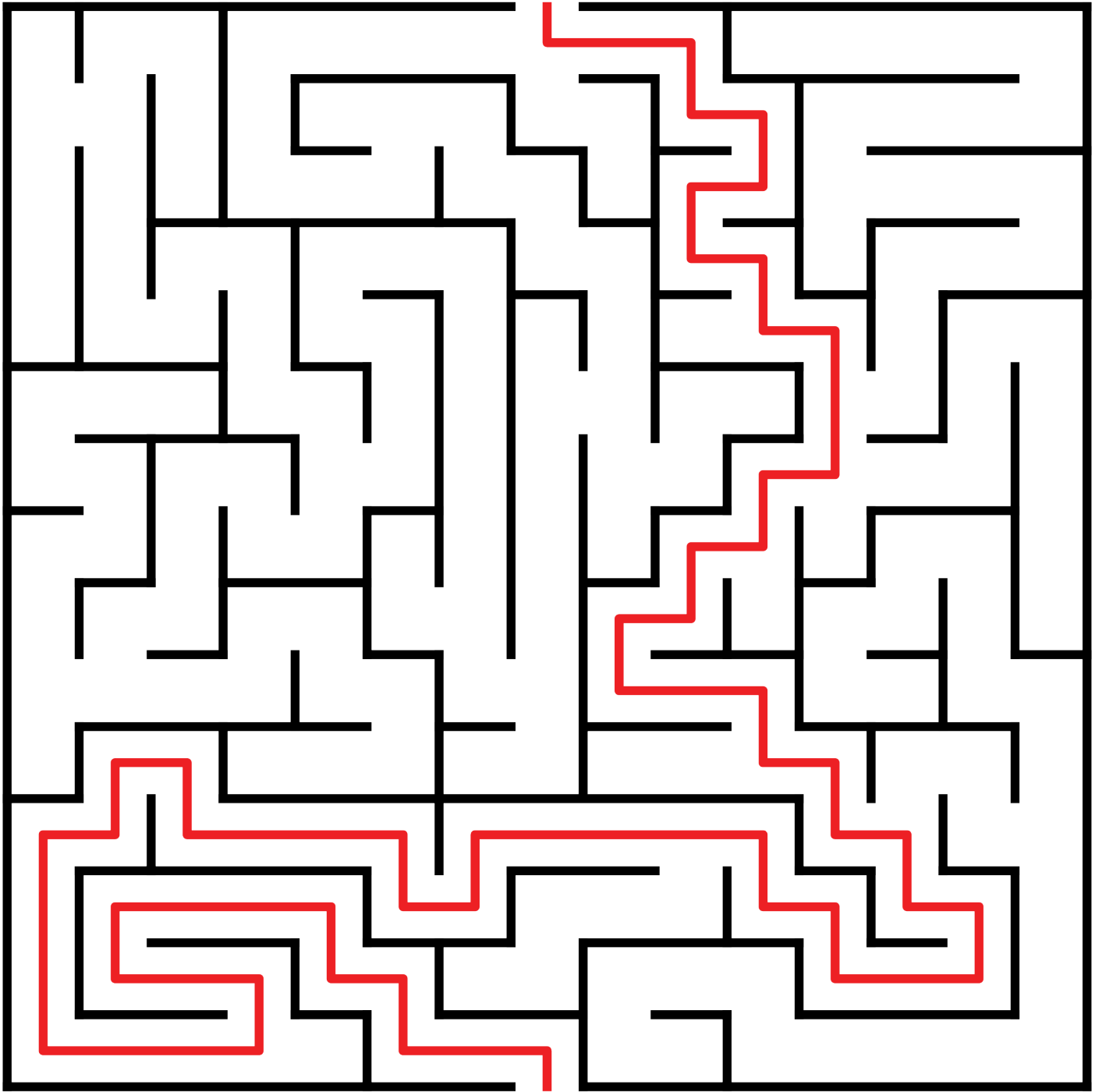


A-MAZE-ING CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Can you give the Christmas pudding a stir?



SOLUTION TO A-MAZE-ING CHRISTMAS PUDDING



WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in the *Magical Christmas Wishes* wordsearch.

Name:

Class:

Date:



word search

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS WISHES

O G L H T F F Y E M S U
C Z L R R U P A S E T R
I S G R A P D D M I C E
G R A N D M A N N I A Q
A N W M I R E U U E L D
M I I Y T D I S J I N Y
P A S K I S D P O L D R
S I H O O S I U E R I E
W S E E N O Y R P A A C
H R S O A T C I H H C I
I C A D V E N T T C I P
T T O I N F E S T I V E



ADVENT
CHARLIE
CHRISTMAS
COOKING
DAISY
FAMILY

FESTIVE
GRANDMA
MAGIC
PUDDING
RECIPE
ROSE

STIR
STIRUPSUNDAY
TRADITION
WISHES





Answer Sheet
word search

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS WISHES

O	G	L	H	T	F	F	Y	E	M	S	U
C	Z	L	R	R	U	P	A	S	E	T	R
I	S	G	R	A	P	D	M	I	C	E	
G	R	A	N	D	M	A	N	N	I	A	Q
A	N	W	M	I	R	E	U	U	E	L	D
M	I	I	Y	T	D	I	S	J	I	N	Y
P	A	S	K	I	S	D	P	O	L	D	R
S	I	H	O	O	S	I	U	E	R	I	E
W	S	E	E	N	O	Y	R	P	A	A	C
H	R	S	O	A	T	C	I	H	H	C	I
I	C	A	D	V	E	N	T	T	C	I	P
T	T	O	I	N	F	E	S	T	I	V	E



ADVENT
CHARLIE
CHRISTMAS
COOKING
DAISY
FAMILY

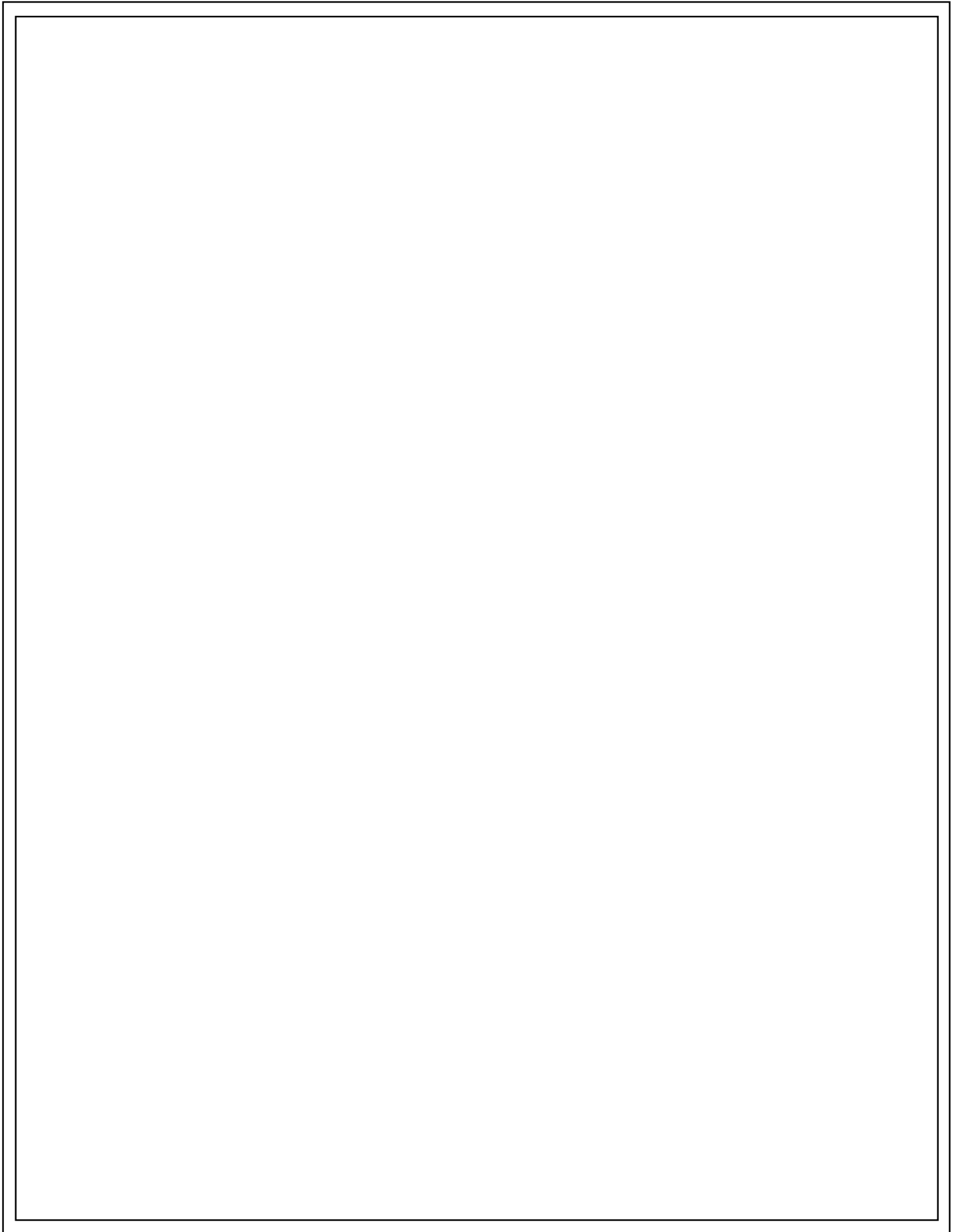
FESTIVE
GRANDMA
MAGIC
PUDDING
RECIPE
ROSE

STIR
STIRUPSUNDAY
TRADITION
WISHES



COLOURING IN ACTIVITY

Can you draw a picture of a tradition that you have in your home/family? It might be an activity, a meal, a trip somewhere ...



WRITE A POEM

Write an acrostic poem using the word TRADITIONS. An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word. You could write about some famous traditions such as Christmas, festivals, special days or write about one tradition that means something to you.

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